

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15, and 17-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15, and 17-24 are rejected. Claims 1, 9, 19, and 24 are amended herein. No new matter is added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 9, and 19 are amended only for clarification and to more distinctly claim that which the Applicants regard as the invention. No new matter is added.

Claim 24 is amended to correct a clerical error.

The invention enables a mobile computing device, e.g., a PID, to selectively transmit data among a group of mobile computing devices. A PID using the invention broadcasts a query to determine a group of mobile computing devices within communications range to populate a list of mobile computing devices within communications range and present the list on a graphical user interface. A user selects one or more mobile computing devices from the list for a data transfer. When the user selects only a single mobile computing device, the graphical user interface prompts the user to select a wireless communication type selected from the group consisting of an infrared link and a radio frequency (RF) link, but when the user selects multiple mobile computing devices, the radio frequency link is automatically selected. Then the data transfer to the one or more mobile computing devices is performed using the wireless communication type selected.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15, and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “BLUETOOTH – The universal radio interface for ad hoc, wireless connectivity,” Ericsson review No. 3, 1998 by Haartsen (Haartsen), in view of Eldridge et al. (U.S.6,421,716 – “Eldridge”), Flanagan, et al., (U.S. 6,128,661 – “Flanagan”), and Applicant’s admitted prior art.

Haartsen describes networking with Bluetooth radio interface enabled devices. As is well known, Bluetooth enabled devices can share a channel to establish an ad hoc piconet. It should be understood that the invention may use Bluetooth as an underlying technology. For the sake of clarity, the Applicants present an element by element traversal of the rejection, below.

Claim 1 recites broadcasting a query to determine a group of mobile computing devices within communications range. Broadcasting to determine devices within range is known. However, Haartsen at page 115 teaches that the paging unit selects a specific unit to page, see below:

To establish a connection, the paging unit must obtain the identity of units within transmission range. Therefore, it executes an inquiry procedure: the paging unit transmits an inquiry access code (which is common to all Bluetooth devices) on the inquiry wake-up carriers. When a recipient receives the inquiry, it returns a packet containing its identity and clock—the very opposite of the paging procedure. After having gathered each response, the paging unit can then select a specific unit to page (Figure 8).

There, it is implicit that, at the time of the inquiry procedure, the paging unit is seeking a particular unit to establish a connection with. Haartsen automatically establishes a connection and communicates with a

predetermined unit. In contrast, the invention broadcasts to determine a group of mobile computing devices within range for presenting, on a graphical user interface, a list of mobile computing devices within communications range, as recited in the second element. Haartsen never presents the list on a graphical user interface, as claimed.

Using the graphical user interface, a user selects one or more mobile computing devices from the list for a data transfer. As stated above, Haartsen, in the section titled “Establishing a connection,” broadcasts an inquiry to multiple units to discover a predetermined unit. Further, the section titled “Piconets” never describes selecting from a group of identified units. There, only the details of the master/slave interaction of units in a piconet are described. Further still, the reference to page 112, Box C, third user scenario on the left, teaches nothing about the claimed receiving a selection of one or more mobile computing devices from the list for a data transfer, the selecting performed at the graphical user interface by a user.

See below:

Interactive conference—connect every participant for instant data exchange

In meetings and at conferences, you can share information instantly with other participants. You can also operate a projector remotely without wire connectors.

The Examiner is requested to explain, with specificity, how the above referenced section teach broadcasting, receiving and selecting elements as explicitly recited in the present claims.

Further, a key element of the invention recites when the selection comprises a single mobile computing device, prompting, using the graphical user interface, the user to select a wireless communication type selected from the group consisting of an infrared link and a radio frequency (RF) link, and when the selection comprises multiple mobile computing devices, automatically selecting the radio frequency link and performing the data transfer to the one or more mobile computing devices using the wireless communication type selected. The Examiner cites Eldridge at col. 6, lines 22-39 as teaching what is claimed. However, Eldridge transmits using RF in response to a failure of an IR connection. That is not what is claimed. Claimed is performing the data transfer to the one or more mobile computing devices using the wireless communication type selected by the user. If a user of the invention selects a single mobile device, the user has a choice of IR or RF. The data transfer takes place using the selected type. There is only a default to RF in an instance of multiple selected devices according to what is claimed. Since Eldridge defaults to RF if the IR connection with a single device cannot be established, Eldridge can never teach performing the data transfer to the one or more mobile computing devices using the wireless communication type selected, as claimed. Simply put, when Eldridge defaults to RF, Eldridge is not performing the data transfer according to the selected communication type. It appears the Examiner has confused the claimed requirement for transfer to multiple devices and transfers to single devices. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw Eldridge as a reference.

Flanagin describes a mobile device connecting to a desktop computer, which is not a mobile device, as claimed. Further, the GUI in Flanagin is not

populated in response to a broadcast query. Further still, there is no automatic selection of any wireless communication type in response to devices selected from a list presented on the GUI as claimed. Flanagan is useless from making the invention obvious.

The Examiner has failed to show anywhere in the combined prior art a device that transmits using either IR or RF based on a user selection of mobile devices presented on a list of a GUI that results in performing the data transfer to the one or more mobile computing devices *using the wireless communication type selected*, as claimed. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of independent claims 1, 9, and 19 based on Haartsen, Eldridge, Flanagan and Applicants Admitted prior Art.

In claims 2, 10 and 20, at least one of the mobile computing devices is a PID (personal information device). In claims 3, 11 and 21, at least one of the mobile computing devices is a cellular telephone. As stated above, the combination of references has failed to teach any devices that can perform a data transfer according to what is claimed.


In claims 4, 12, and 22, the query is broadcast using the RF link. In claims 5, 13, and 23, the RF link is compatible with a version of the Bluetooth specification. As stated above with respect to claims 1, 9, and 19, while Bluetooth compatible RF may be used as an underlying technology with which to practice the invention, the combination of references cited by the Examiner fails to teach any devices that can perform a data transfer

according to what is claimed. The same is true for claims 7, 15 and 24,
which recite presenting a confirmation of the data transfer.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A
notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise
concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's
attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due
in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-6350.

Respectfully submitted,
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